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(74) Agent: MESSINA, Michael, A.; McDermott, Will & Emery, 600 13th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3096 (US).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ANCRA INTERNATIONAL, LLC [US/US]; 4880 West Rose Crans Avenue, Hawthorne, CA 90250 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

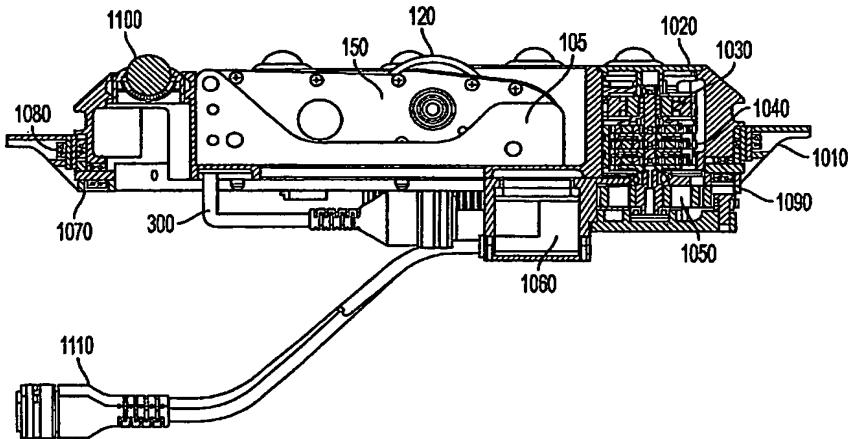
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MCCONNELL, Matthew, S. [US/US]; 848 Starcrest Street, Brea, CA 92821 (US). WOLFE, Robert, M. [US/US]; 24042 Sprig Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (US). LEINGANG, Alan, F. [US/US]; 28601 Chimney Rock Circle, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 (US).

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(54) Title: STEERABLE /RETRACTABLE CARGO POWER DRIVE UNIT



(57) Abstract: A steerable, retractable power drive unit (SRPDU) is provided for installation into a transport vehicle for moving cargo in mutually perpendicular directions, such as a doorway where containers need to move both laterally and longitudinally in a cargo vehicle. The SRPDU rotates upon application of an external command, to orient the drive unit in the required direction and to drive the cargo containers. The SRPDU comprises a stationary support (1010) for fixedly attaching to a vehicle structure and a rotating support (1020) rotatably mounted to the stationary support. A drive assembly is movably mounted to the rotating support, the drive assembly comprising a roller (120) and a first electronically controlled electric motor for rotating the roller. A lift assembly (150) mounted to the drive assembly has a second electronically controlled electric motor for moving the drive assembly relative to the rotating support from a retracted position substantially within the rotating support to an extended position with the roller in driving abutment against the cargo. A rotation drive assembly has a third electronically controlled electric motor (1030) on the rotating support for rotating the rotating support relative to the stationary support. An electronic controller (1060) controls the first, second and third motors.

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